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APPLICANT(S): Vinkemeier et al.  
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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with Applicant's and Applicant's representatives' Duty of Disclosure under 37 CFR § 1.56, and pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.97 and MPEP 717.05(b), Applicant(s) submit herewith documentary information for consideration by the Examiner. Information herein cited is only set forth in fulfillment of Applicant's duty of candor in disclosing all information brought to his attention, and is not an admission that it can be used adversely. The publications forwarded herewith are listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Applicant(s) request that the Examiner, upon reviewing the enclosed materials, initial the enclosed form and return a copy thereof in accordance with the instructions on the form.

All the publications (AA through BE) listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 were either cited by the Examiner or already supplied with an Information Disclosure Statement in connection with Application U.S. Serial No. 08/951,130, filed on October 15, 1997. Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.98(d), copies of the cited references are hereby not enclosed.

No fee is believed due for the filing of this statement inasmuch as it is being filed within three months of the filing of the application. However, should the Patent and Trademark Office determine otherwise, authorization is hereby given to charge Deposit Account No. 11-1153 for this filing.

Respectfully submitted,

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